

First organized in 1927, the ROW/OC Association of Pennsylvania, has strived to promote more effective government by concentrating on the priorities of information dissemination, education, and legislation. To best do this, they conduct an annual statewide conference for their members, which is an effective forum for education and the sharing of information. The result of this hard work, is the creation of a critical link between Pennsylvania's various departments, agencies, and the public who depend on these offices for a wide variety of purposes.

I would like to once again congratulate the Register of Wills & Clerks of Orphans' Court Association of Pennsylvania on their 75th Anniversary as a state association and thank them for their hard work and dedication.

#### COMMENDING JASON HIBNER

#### HON. TONY P. HALL

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. HALL of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, each year the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Ladies Auxiliary conduct a national audio essay contest entitled the Voice of Democracy. 85,000 secondary school students participated this year on the theme, Reaching Out to America's Future. Jason Hibner, a young man from my congressional district, took second place with his entry, and was awarded the \$16,000 Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship. Jason has just completed his junior year at Vandalia-Butler High School. I am pleased to insert his remarks into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

#### 2001-2002 VFW VOICE OF DEMOCRACY SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST

#### "REACHING OUT TO AMERICA'S FUTURE"

The train ride must have been nearly unbearable. The biting cold, so unlike the warmth of the Hawaiian harbor, likely did nothing to dull the pain of his recent losses as the iron machine chugged along the parallel tracks. The telegram giving word of his father's death had come only a week prior, it would be difficult to comfort his sister and mother with the tragedy of his brother's death also fresh in their minds. The date was December 7, 1941. The title, "a date that shall live in infamy" would come later as would the declaration of war. But for my great uncle Arthur the day would mark the grimmest day of his life. He should have been there, at Pearl Harbor, as all his friends and fellow crewmen were when the Zeroes began dropping their deadly cargo. Such cruel irony, only his personal tragedies had prevented the loss of his own life. The thoughts of friends dying to the West and his family grieving to the East must have made the long ride nearly unbearable.

In December of '41, the world changed for every American young and old. The threat to our liberty could not be questioned; it could only be answered with such extra ordinary force and purpose. However, the war was won, not by the adults who earlier questioned the next generation's patriotism, but by the young men and women who were pulled from their homes and thrown into battle for all those who would come after. Today we call them "The Greatest Generation," once they were called the future of America.

Within my own short lifetime, I can remember another period when everyone felt it was time to create some more patriotism

and concern for our nation. That time was roughly from the moments during my childhood as coherent thoughts began to fill my mind to a date that shall always occupy a front position in my memory: September 11, 2001. Now, no one acts concerned about the need to teach the cost of freedom. We just want to go back to that time, before America once again lost her innocence as children watched from their school room desks both the toppling of the World Trade Center Towers and the disappearance of hope from their teachers' faces.

The young people of America's future will not have the luxury of being gently educated by the wiser members who have experienced Vietnam and Desert Storm. Instead, they have been ripped from their shelter of indifference into the ultimate struggle of good versus evil, a united nation against a radical terror network. The leaders of America have been handed a burden of monstrous proportions for the terrorists' instrument of evil has also become an image demanding retaliation for the American people. Today, the concern of reaching out to America's future has become a universal thread, weaving together all the citizens of this great nation.

America's future is unclear. But it has always been so from first cries of revolution, to the separation of the Union, to the grinding of war on Normandy Beach. Our future citizens of this country may live with daily threats of violence and the fearful anxiety of what will come next. But as Benjamin Franklin once declared, "They that can give up essential liberty to obtain a little temporary safety deserve neither liberty nor safety \* \* \*". The American way will continue as long as there are Americans to sustain it.

Before, I could only imagine the thoughts of my great-uncle during that long ride home. Now we, America's youth, are riding the same journey across the fruited plains and under the spacious skies of America the Beautiful. The parallel tracks of hardened metal resemble the tracks of change through the history of our nation. Often there will be treacherous turns and steep declines, but America always levels herself and turns to the morning dawn. My generation is the future of America and we will fight for liberty and freedom just as all those before us.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO TED ALBERS

#### HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with a solemn heart that I take this opportunity to pay respect to the passing of Ted Albers, who recently passed away at the age of 78. Ted was the former Mesa College president-Administrator who helped reform higher education in Western Colorado to meet vocational and academic ambitions. Ted is credited as an innovative thinker who not only transformed Mesa College from a community college into an accredited four year institution but also preserved the two-year aspects of the institution so that Mesa could continue offering associate degrees and vocational certification.

Ted was born in the small Northwestern Colorado town of Maybell and became a teacher and principal at Rio Blanco High School in Meeker in 1949. He went on to become an administrator for the University of Colorado extension division in Grand Junction and served as an assistant superintendent of

School District 51. In 1969, he returned to receive higher education at Denver Community College and then returned to Mesa in 1970.

Ted's leadership guided Mesa College on a course geared toward providing young adults with a quality and affordable education aimed to meet as many needs as possible in western Colorado. Ted was almost perfectly suited to the job of reshaping Mesa because he was first and foremost an educator in the highest sense of the word.

Ted is survived by his wife, Maxine, who served as a Mesa County Commissioner for 15 years and his two children, T.L. and Rhonda. Throughout his life Ted remained a strong supporter of the Mesa State College and its role in the community.

Mr. Speaker, it is with profound sadness that we remember Ted Albers. He was a remarkable man whose innovative teaching techniques have educated thousands of people and whose good deeds deserve the recognition of this body of Congress and this nation. The impact of Ted's life on those with whom he has come in contact is a testament to this great man. I would like to express my condolences to the family of Ted Albers.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF FATHER BYRON COLLINS OF THE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY OF HIS ORDINA- TION INTO THE PRIESTHOOD

#### HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 11, 2002

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 21, 2002, a gentleman who has been a friend to many of us in this chamber over the last quarter century, Father T. Byron Collins, S.J., celebrated the golden anniversary of his ordination into the priesthood. He entered the Jesuit Order in September, 1940.

Through fifty years of ordained priesthood, Father Collins has left a lasting impression on the lives of many devout Catholics. Virtually every weekend, Father Collins travels over 150 miles round trip to say Mass at Our Mother of Sorrows Catholic Church in Centreville on Maryland's Eastern Shore. During the week, he is an active presence on the campus of Georgetown University where he not only has played a major role in shaping the physical presence of that institution, but has also enhanced the understanding of the Catholic faith among the students. Now in his eighth decade of life, Father Collins is still seen rowing on the Chesapeake Bay and bicycling in the vicinity of the Georgetown campus. This is a man who is living life to the fullest and continuing in many ways to serve his faith.

I know that Father Collins is immensely proud—in his very humble way—of having been able to play a significant role in the life of Georgetown University, the Nation's oldest Catholic university. Likewise, I know that many of us in this House have come to admire and respect this man of the cloth. He has been a friend who has been with us in times of joy and of tribulation. He is to be commended for the fifty years of service he has provided since his ordination.